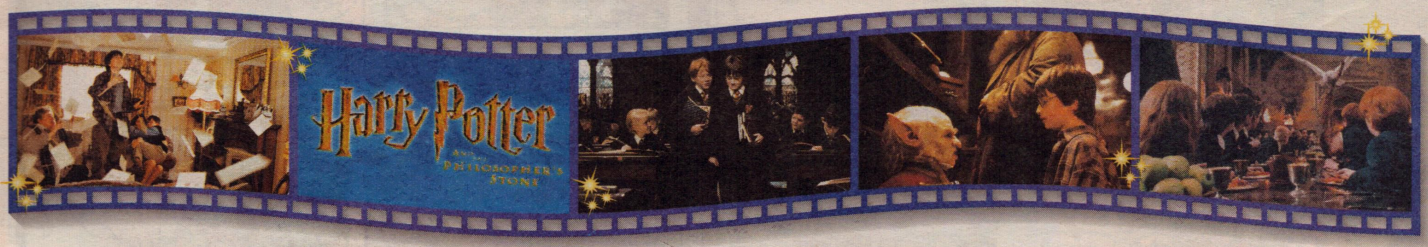
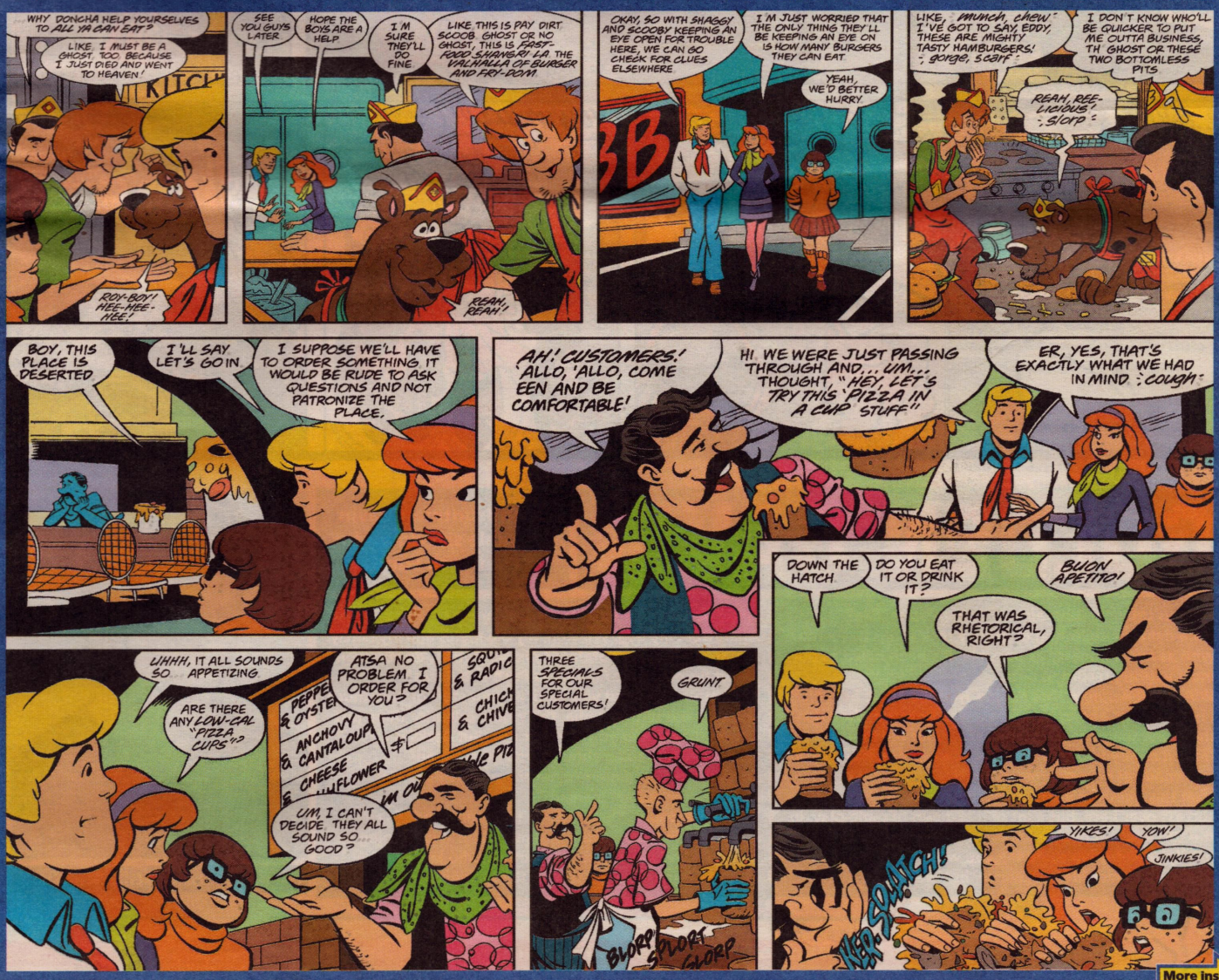
No 636 November 18, 2001

THE FUNDAY TIMES

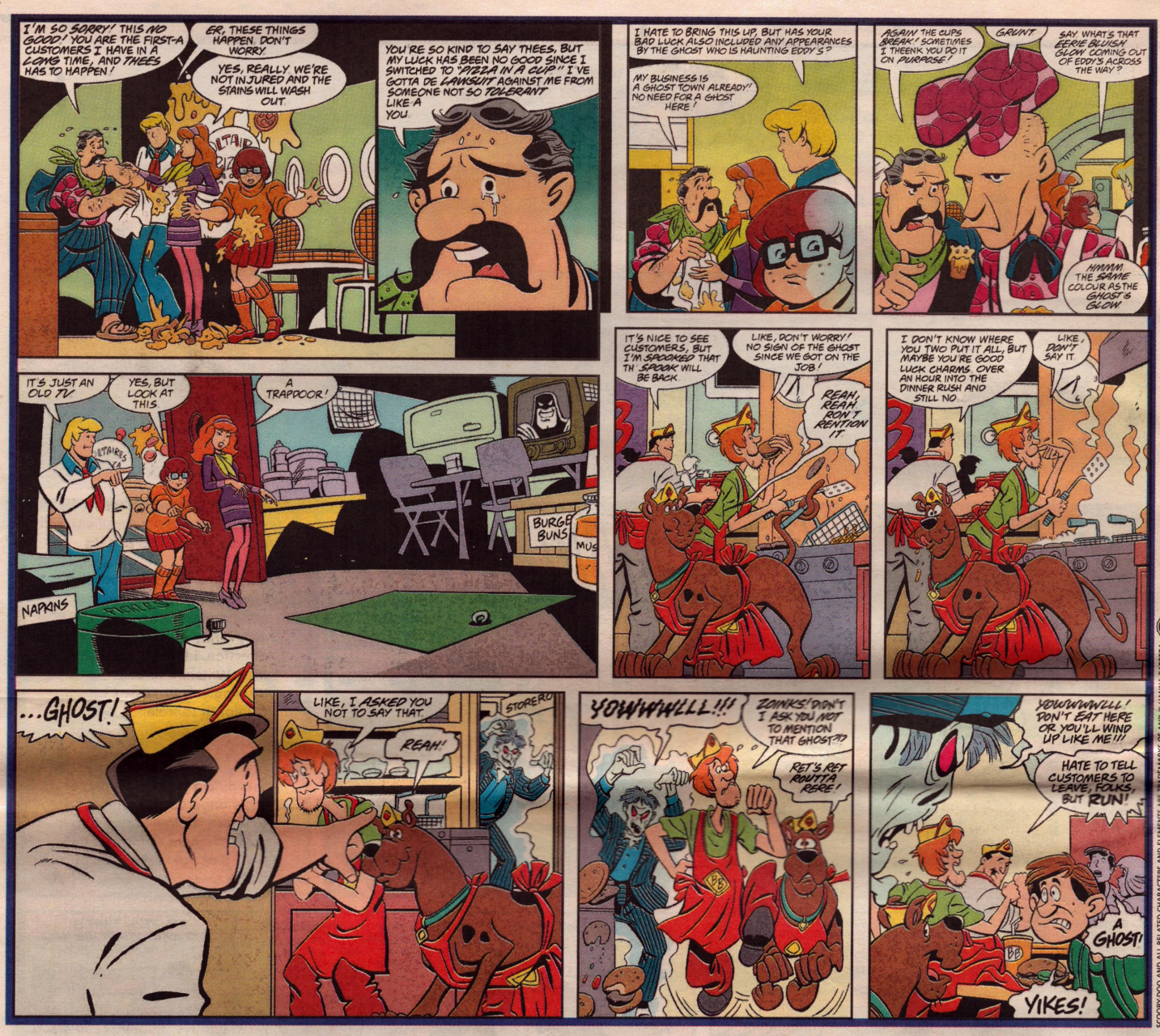


SCOOBY-DOO! in PHAST PHOOD PHANTOM

The story so far – A phantom is scaring customers at Eddy's Bigger Burger diner and Scooby and Shaggy are hot on the trail



More inside



SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA (S01)

GOLDEN GAVIN

Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale sits down for a chat with Funday

What is the new Bush album, Golden State, like?
It's a dynamic collection of groovy rock songs delivered with as much honesty as possible. It's been billed as our most exciting record to date.

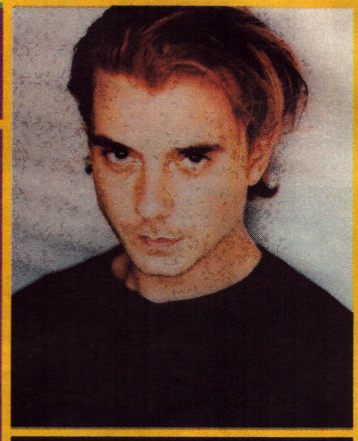
Will the new single, The People That We Love, be a hit?
I hope so. It's a song about betrayal, how we often do the worst things to those we care about the most.

Does it annoy you that Bush are stars in America, yet not so famous at home in the UK?
I get this question every day. It'd be good to repeat the success over here, but a lot of it is down to radio-play. In the UK, loads of people know what Bush look like, but hardly any of them could tell you what we sound like. We've got a nice life in America, but we do live in hope.

What do you miss most from back home?
Apart from my dog, Winston, my old mates and my family.

You're dating Gwen Stefani from No Doubt , do you worry about becoming as famous as Posh and Becks?
No matter how hard you work at your stuff or how much you stay out of the media, the whole celebrity thing just gets you, whether you like it or not. But Becks is a wonderful footballer though, you must agree!

Do you think it's time to drop the pop and get kids reaching for guitars instead?
Without a doubt. That's where the soul is and it's so important in music. More and more kids are listening to nu-metal and bands like Slipknot, so who knows? We may see things change sooner than expected.



The People That We Love is out now

COVER PICTURES ©2001 WARNER BROS/PETER MOUNTAIN

Will Scooby ever get back to eating burgers? Find out next week!

FUNDAY NEWS

New leaf

National Tree Week branches out from November 21 and aims to encourage everyone to plant a tree this winter. The world would die without them and yet we lose 17 million hectares of forest each year. Get involved and visit www.nationaltreeweek.co.uk, where we can all learn about the importance of tree planting and the environment. Cool stuff.

Tights fit

The Victoria and Albert Museum, in London, opens its new £31m British Galleries on November 22 – the same day it introduces free admission. The galleries contain the world's most comprehensive collection of British design from Henry VIII to Queen Victoria. And, if you fancy stepping out in some Tudor attire or Victorian vesture, in the discovery areas you can try on some period costumes or armour!
For more information, click on www.vam.ac.uk

Whale killer

The second programme in BBC1's fantastic Walking With Beasts investigates the mighty basilosaurus – a carnivorous early whale from the late Eocene period [36 million years ago]. "A male could reach 18m long which is pretty damn big," series producer Jasper James tells Funday. "If you go to the Sahara Desert you can actually see a basilosaurus skeleton – it's quite a thing." These huge sea mammals were less chunky than their whale relatives today, as the basilosaurus was a slim-line ambush predator using surprise and its sharp teeth to kill dorudons and sharks. "They lived in the Tethys Sea which was a body of water that used to span from Asia to the Atlantic and is now closed off. The Mediterranean is part of what is left of this enormous shallow, warm ocean," explains Jasper.

Walking With Beasts: Whale Killer is on BBC1, Thursday at 8.30pm.

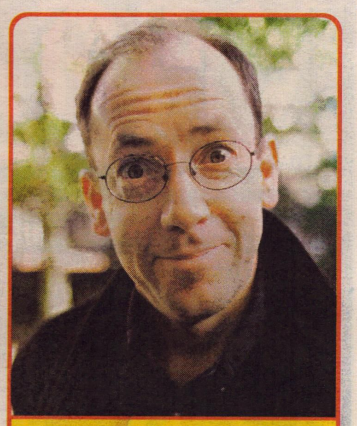
PICTURES ©BBC ONE

Santa school

Customers at Virgin Megastore got a shock last week when they were confronted by a class of Father Christmases! Staff at London's Oxford Street store were providing lessons in what's going to be cool this yule. As well as spinning discs on record decks and finger bashing a Game Boy Advance, the studious Santas discovered what a DVD was and were taught hip new slang such as "blinging" meaning good.
"I already know a lot of these words as I watch Ali G," belly-laughed one Santa to Funday!

Monkey magic

Bizarre 1980s cult TV show, Monkey, is back – but this time on stage, starting this week at the Old Vic Theatre in London. Monkey: A Tale From China [November 22 – January 19] is an action-packed play based on the massively popular show. The story follows Monkey, an immortal simian and great fighter, on his adventurous journey to India. Along with two friends, Pigsy and Sandy, Monkey comes across dragons, demons, spirits and gods as he guides Tripitaka, a Buddhist monk from China, through the Himalayas. With some crazy kung-fu action, colourful characters and serious sword fighting, Monkey Magic is not to be missed. For more info and tickets call 020 7928 6363 or swing on over to www.youngvic.org



G'day Morris

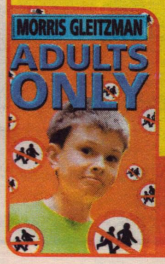
Funday catches up with Aussie writer Morris Gleitzman during his recent visit to Britain

How's the book tour going?
It's been a good one but they never have a particular geographical order to them, they very rarely go in a clockwise direction. I found myself going from Wiltshire to Essex to Birmingham to Sussex to Plymouth to Ireland!

Have you been asked any strange questions?
One young lady from East Sussex asked: "Do you have a pair of lucky underpants?" The answer to which is: "Yes." My children gave me them to me and they have a device in them that plays a Christmas carol. I actually left them at home which is unfortunate considering the state of world travel at the moment.

Is the Morris that writes and the Morris that tours different?
They are closely linked but they are certainly different. They both need to have there voice heard. When I've been out and about strutting my stuff it takes me a week or two to get back to writing.

What can you tell us about your next book?
I finished writing it about three weeks ago before I started my travels. I wrote a book a couple of years ago called Toad Rage and I'd hate to call it a sequel – it's a stand alone book in its own right – but it has the same characters. It's called Toad Heaven.

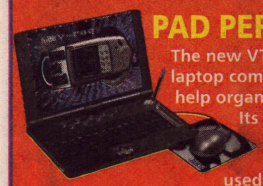


Morris's great new book, Adults Only, is out now

FUNDAY

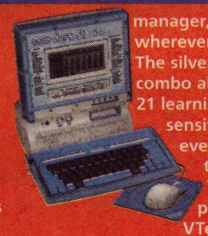
TOP DRAW

Welcome to our new section for budding Funday artists and scribblers! If you've got a cool drawing or painting you want to show off, send it to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX

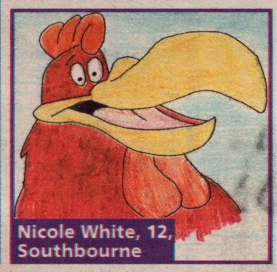


PAD PERFECT

The new VTech V-Pad laptop computer could help organise your life. Its laptop screen can be removed and used as a handheld Personal Digital Assistant [PDA]. That means you can use the 11 organiser functions, including diary, address book and money manager, to sort your life out wherever you are.



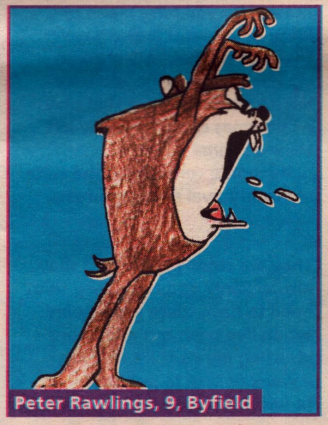
The silver and blue laptop/PDA combo also boasts 12 games, 21 learning activities, a touch-sensitive screen and can even send info straight to a VTech printer. The creator of the star picture will receive a VTech V-Pad laptop. The other artists will receive a Desk Station PC.



Nicole White, 12, Southbourne

Melody Shand, 7, Lingfield

Helen Hebenton, 12, Bolton



Peter Rawlings, 9, Byfield

Esme Pooke, 11, Kingsley

Anant Shah, 10, Thornton Heath

DAGSY DOG

Woof, woof! Got any pet problems? Then get in touch with me at the address below!

ILLUSTRATION: PAUL CEMMICK

PET HOSPITAL

The Blue Cross Victoria Animal Hospital in Hugh Street, London, is to be reopened by the Queen on Tuesday.

The famous pet hospital first opened its doors in 1906, and has been helping people's poorly pets ever since.

The hospital, which was set up to provide treatment for London's pets and overworked horses and donkeys, was originally designed for just three vets. By 2000, there were eight vets and 28 nurses treating approximately 25,000 sick and injured animals every year.

The makeover, which includes three new operating theatres and new kennelling areas, cost £4m. But, as the hospital's chief veterinary surgeon Jess Gower says, it was well worth it.

"We're delighted to have such up-to-date facilities, they've been needed for some time. With the new equipment, we are hoping to see 5,000 more cases each year and this can only benefit both the animals and their owners."

If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:

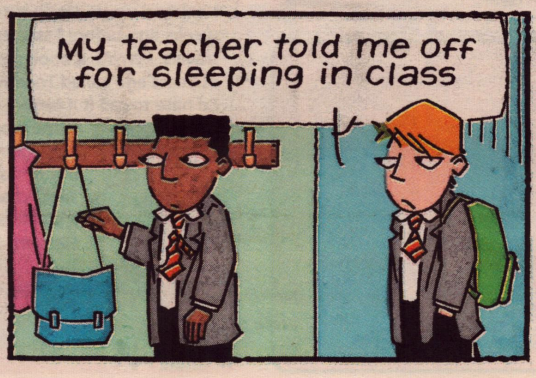
The Funday Times, Dagsy Dog, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST

You can now e-mail your pet problems to

dagsy.dog@sunday-times.co.uk

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities, has four animal hospitals, 11 adoption centres, and two equine centres. Last year the charity found homes for thousands of animals and treated more than 50,000 pets at its hospitals.

Jarvis

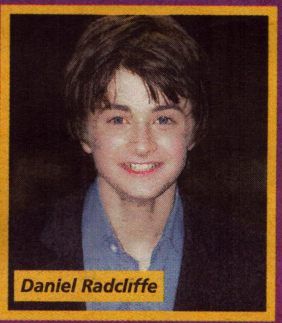


©KNIGHT FEATURES

Who can you draw? Show us your finest!

HAPPY AS HARRY

Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone has finally arrived and anyone who has seen it will know it's well worth the hype. Funday caught up with some of the cast to see how they're coping with the Harry hullabaloo



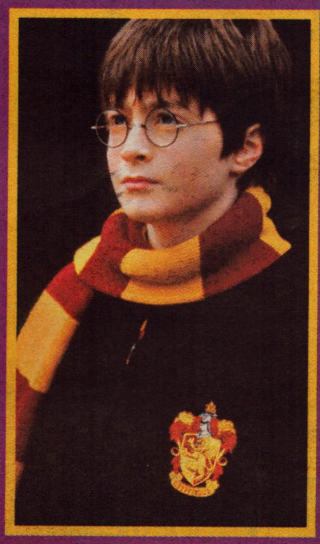
Daniel Radcliffe

The anticipation for most of us is over. But for Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe, things are about to change forever. His face is becoming hugely famous as millions all over the world flock to cinemas to catch the movie. Dan doesn't read any articles about Harry Potter, which he hopes will help keep his feet firmly on the ground. His mum and dad have been helpful too. "They've told me to enjoy it," Dan tells Funday. "That's the best thing because there are worse things happening right now than just being recognised."

When Dan was asked if he had treated himself to anything, he couldn't remember! Hagrid actor Robbie Coltrane soon put Dan straight. "We've seen the Rolls Royce," he jokes. "With the HP1 number-plates!"

Robbie Coltrane is no stranger to fame and his biggest fear was playing such a well-loved character. "I got this letter from a woman just before we started filming," he says. "She said: 'I'm really glad you're Hagrid as the expectations of millions and millions of children are resting on your shoulders,' – so no pressure, then!"

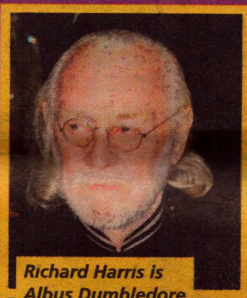
However, Dumbledore actor Richard Harris is more philosophical about it all.



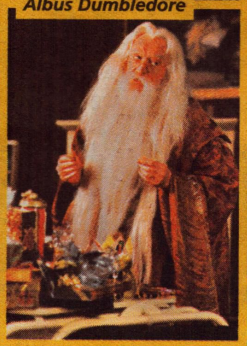
"If you worry about approval you're going to get it wrong. All I wanted to do was to embody Dumbledore and let him speak for himself. My difficulty was the voice. This is a 71-year-old voice and Dumbledore is 2,000 years old!"

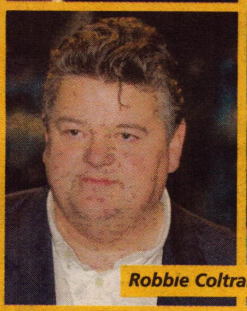
Daniel followed Richard's advice and although he wasn't nervous about playing Harry he did have one first-day worry. "It was just me, Rupert, Emma and Chris [Columbus – the director] doing rehearsals," he explains. "When I got a call sheet for the first day and I looked at the cast and it said us three, and I thought, 'Fine, I'm used to that.' But I then looked over the page and read, extras – 150!"

The cast are already filming the second movie, Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets, which will make Harry the biggest hero since James Bond. What does Dan reckon to that? "Wow!" he laughs. "It makes me very privileged."

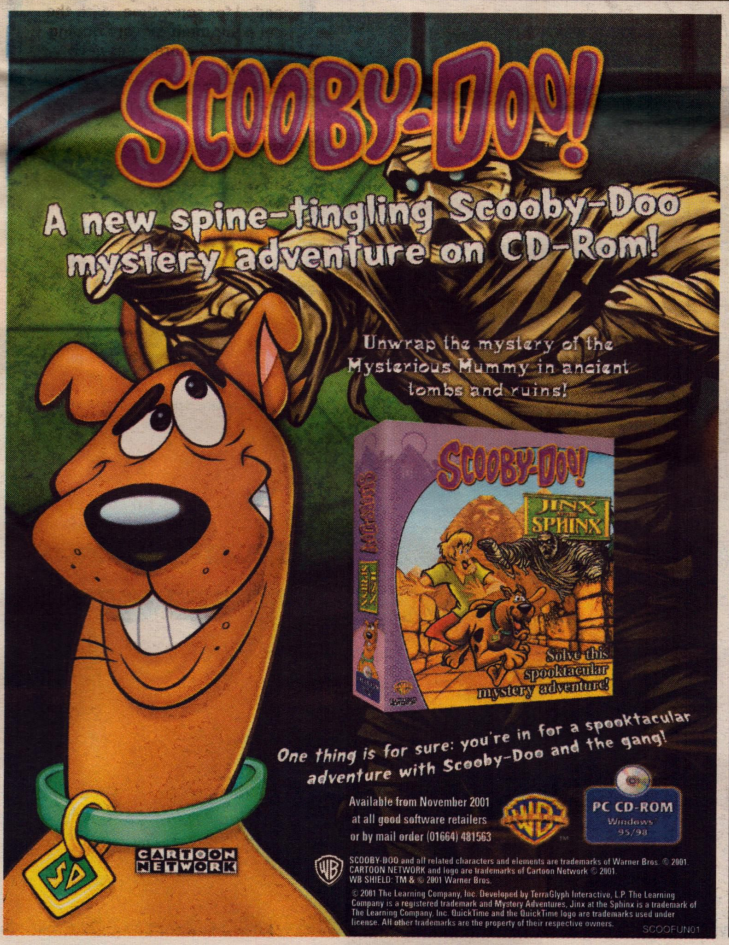


Richard Harris is Albus Dumbledore





Robbie Coltrane is Hagrid



PICTURES: ©2001 WARNER BROS/PETER MOUNTAIN, EPA, AP/RICHARD LEWIS, PA/YUI MOK

Is the Harry Potter film a hit with you? Write in and tell us!

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

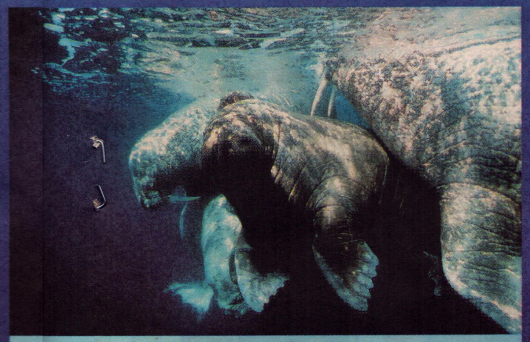
The winners of the 2001 BG Wildlife Photographer Of The Year have finally been chosen. Funday's wild about the winning pictures and we've sneaked in some of the super snaps to see if they bring out the animal in you!

Fly on boletus fungus by Rony Vander Est, Belgium

This superb picture was the overall winner of the Young Wildlife Photographer Of The Year. Rony, 17, spotted this boletus in the woodland near his home in Belgium and returned the next day to take a photograph. "It was quite uncomfortable, and bugs kept biting me," says Rony. "Just when I got the composition right, a fly landed on the boletus."

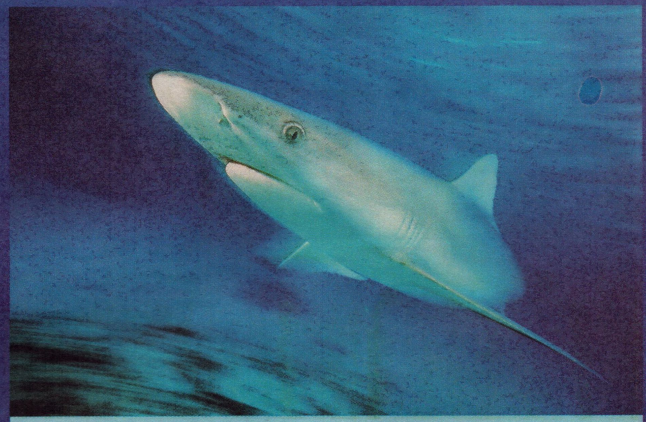
Cape ground squirrel in evening light by Vincent Munier, France

"One sunset, I was in Mata-Mata, one of the camps in the Gemsbok National Park," explains Vincent about this picture he took in South Africa. "I positioned myself against the sun and waited for the golden light to highlight the squirrel's magnificent whiskers."



Atlantic walrus mother and pup by Paul Nicklen, Canada

Paul was lucky to get so close to this female walrus and her pup, because mothers are highly protective of their young. "Females grow to around 1,200kg, and so I was keen to avoid her wrath," laughs Paul.



Grey reef shark by Tobias Bernhard, Germany

This awesome picture won the 2001 BG Wildlife Photographer Of The Year prize. It was taken in a lagoon on the Beveridge Reef in the South Pacific. Tobias and his crew used bait to lure the sharks to a particular coral head. Over two weeks they began to swim closer and closer. This is a dominant female. "On this occasion, she was barely 30cm from me," recalls Tobias.

Duck family by Gemalla Daisy Symons, Australia

This mallard is leading her ducklings into the rough sea at Lord Howe Island in Australia. "They had to follow her," explains Gemalla. "Even though they kept getting dunked by the waves."

Starlings flying in to roost by José L Gómez de Francisco, Spain

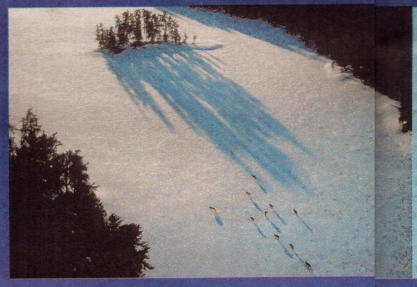
These starlings were roosting near Logroño in northern Spain. Each evening, the birds gathered together and flew around in this vast cloud before settling in the reed-bed for the night.

American bison defrosting by Mervin D Coleman, USA

Mervin got this picture in the Yellowstone National Park's Lamar Valley, early one morning. It had been -26C that night and the bison was still covered in frost. As the sun came out steam began to rise from its frost-covered body.

Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys by Xi Zhinong, China

Xi had his work cut out to catch these monkeys on camera in the Yunling Mountains, China. Not only are they the most endangered mammal species in the world, they also live higher up than any other primate, between 3,000m and 4,700m above sea level.



Grey wolves hunting by Joel Sartore, USA

These wolves in Minnesota's northern woods were so used to being tracked by planes that they didn't glance up as Joel flew above. In winter, grey wolves travel across frozen lakes meaning that they can cover 80km or more in one night's hunting.

Puffin emerging from its burrow by Chris Williams, United Kingdom

Skomer, an island off the coast of West Wales, is famous for its puffins. This one had just caught some sand eels when it had to rush back to its burrow to avoid some predatory great black-backed gulls. Chris got his shot when it re-emerged later.

European moose eating its velvet by Staffan Widstrand, Sweden

Staffan got incredibly close to this moose in the Sarek National Park in Swedish Lapland. "He began beating the trees and bushes around him with his antlers, tearing off the protective, furry skin to reveal a beautiful, brand-new set of antlers, ready for this year's rut," Staffan recalls.

Waterbuck by Ashleigh Rennie, South Africa

Ashleigh, 13, asked her grandfather to get his car in exactly the right place so that she could get the perfect shot. It certainly worked – this photograph was runner-up in the 11- to 14-year-old section.

All the winning and commended photos are on display at London's Natural History Museum until March 11, 2002. For further details call 020 7942 5000 or visit www.nhm.ac.uk

THE FUNDAY TIMES

PICTURES: RONY VANDER EST/TOBIAS BERNHARD/VINCENT MUNIER/XI ZHINONG/CHRIS WILLIAMS/STAFFAN WIDSTRAND/PAUL NICKLEN/MERVIN D COLEMAN/JOEL SARTORE/GEMALLA DAISY SYMONS/ASHLEIGH RENNIE
BG WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION ORGANISED BY BBC WILDLIFE MAGAZINE AND THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

www.bbc.co.uk/sportspersonality

Online voting for the 2001 BBC Sports Personality of the Year has just opened – and you can have your say! Sir Steven Redgrave walked away with the title last year but it should be a lot more difficult to predict in 2001. Contenders include Ellen MacArthur, Michael Owen, Tim Henman and Jonathan Edwards. Who would you choose?

PICTURE: PA

www.westlife.com

Westlife are back with a bang and the lads' new website is just as smooth as their ballads. There is an added platinum site – which costs £14.99 – that promises exclusive interviews, videos and behind-the-scenes footage, as well as priority booking for tickets. It's pretty expensive especially when you consider that the normal site is very cool anyway.

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

SAFFY'S ANGEL Hilary McKay ★★★★★

Saffron's world is turned upside down when she discovers that her mum is in fact her aunt, at the same time as her grandfather dies. Despite these heart-breaking events, Saffy and her "brother" and "sisters" gradually prove that families are created by love, and not by who you are born to, as Saffy tries to find the stone angel her grandfather has left to her in his will. A surprisingly humourous read that – thanks to its dialogue and slightly off-the-wall characters – keeps your interest.

BOOK

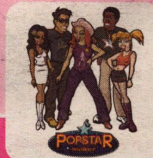
UMBRO GENIUS WATCHES ★★★★★

Umbro loves football – every minute of it in fact – and to prove it the company's come up with a timepiece that'll please every footy fan. There are two versions of the Genius watch [£29.99], one for the lads and one for the laydees. Both have a sporty style and feature the must-have for any football lover – a countdown timer, which automatically goes to extra time, so you know when to start shouting at the ref! The watch also has a stopwatch, alarm, and a cool rotating pattern.

WATCH

POPSTAR MAKER ★★★★★

Now that Five have disappeared off planet pop, could you form your own band and catapult them to super stardom? This PS-One game is the closest thing to becoming a pop svengali where you select your band members, train them up, record their songs and release them to the general public. Thoroughly good fun and once you've created your first track you'll be hooked on the path to showbiz success. This is a great game concept and it's our number one title this week.

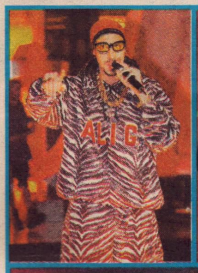


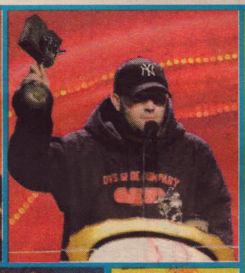
PS-ONE

Got a fave site? Tell Webby today!

FUNDAY

BUZZ!





WHO WON WHAT?

Best Group – Limp Bizkit
Best Male – Robbie Williams
Best Female – J Lo
Best Pop – Anastacia
Best Hip Hop – Eminem
Best Dance – Gorillaz
Best R&B – Craig David
Best New Act – Dido
Best Rock – Blink 182
Web Award – limpbizkit.com
Best Song – Clint Eastwood, Gorillaz
Best Video – Since I Left You, The Avalanches
Best Album – Chocolate Starfish And The Hot Dog Flavoured Water, Limp Bizkit
Best UK & Ireland Act – Craig David

KYLIE STEALS THE SHOW!

The MTV Europe Music Awards 2001 took place in Frankfurt last week, and Buzz! went to Germany to catch all the action

Kylie opened the awards in Frankfurt with a stunning rendition of her number-one hit, Can't Get You Out Of My Head. The high-tech stage throbbed with pulsing lights as Kylie's dancers could be seen in silhouette, dancing on tiered gantries covered with white gauze. As the crowd went wild when the familiar opening "Na, na, na" boomed out from the speakers, the gantry split down the middle to reveal the pop princess, at the top of a glitzy flashing staircase. In a flurry of fireworks, Kylie shimmied down the stairs and burst into her dance routine – delivering a perfect live performance.

Of course, the night was all about dishing out the silver springy MTV awards, and the big winners were nu-metal group, Limp Bizkit. Front man Fred Durst proclaimed the evening: "The best night of my life," as he collected the band's third gong [Best Group, Best Album and the inaugural Web Award]. Fred was obviously in a fun-loving mood – he even took part in a comedy sketch with Hollywood star Ben Stiller. While they were presenting an award, supermodel Claudia Schiffer looked down at Ben and told him that he could never be a model because he's too short. Fred then ran on to the stage and curled up into a ball, so that Ben could stand on his back, and tower over Claudia – much to the crowd's amusement.

Surprisingly, Limp Bizkit didn't perform one of their own tracks at the show. Instead, Fred sang an old Led Zeppelin track called Thank You.

British star Craig David got huge cheers when he picked up both of his well-deserved awards – Best R&B and Best UK & Ireland Act. He also gave one of the best performances of the night, singing a fantastic rendition of Walking Away.

Although Robbie couldn't attend the show, he sent a hilarious video message from Australia, and could be seen clutching his Best Male award gratefully.

As always, backstage gossip was rife – most of it involving Ali G's insulting introductions to the celebrity presenters. Mild-mannered Emma Bunton was even heard to growl: "I don't like that man!" before stepping on to the stage. But if she'd been at Frankfurt airport the next day, Emma would have chuckled. Ali G comedian Sacha Baron Cohen was forced to hang around at the airport for four hours until a plane flying home arrived!

THREE'S THE MAGIC NUMBER

As Ant and Dec prepare to leave SM:TV, Buzz! sits down with the famous pair and their TV co-host Cat Deeley, to talk about the new video of the best bits from the Saturday morning show

Was it hard choosing your favourite bits for the video?

Dec: Very hard. We've been doing the programme for three-and-a-half years, so there were so many bits to choose from.

Ant: It's really funny seeing all the clips together and we've filmed some new links. It's a brilliant video ... so buy it now!

What's your fave SM:TV moment so far?

Cat: When Ant didn't know we were live on air.

Ant: Oh that was hilarious. I was going "blah, blah, blah" and just talking rubbish, then I saw the look on their faces and realised we were on air. Thank goodness I didn't say anything naughty!

Dec: My favourite was the 100th edition of Chums when we got loads of pop stars in to sing a charity song. So many people turned up – Westlife, Spice Girls, Five. In rehearsals it was a disaster, but it worked brilliantly live.

Who's been the best guest?

Dec: Cilla Black was great. She got all her lines right, which doesn't happen often.

Ant: S Club 7, Steps and Westlife are brilliant. They've been on the show so many times that they're always game for a laugh.

Cat: We even managed to get Ritchie from Five into ballet tights. In fact, it was quite hard to get him out of them!

... and the worst?

Dec: An American actress called Brigitte Nielsen. She was so bad in the rehearsals for Chums that we told her to go home.

Cat: That's not strictly true. Nobody actually told her to go home, they just left her sitting in her dressing room while Carol Vorderman took her place. She's probably still in the dressing room waiting to be called!

Any favourite guest presenters?

Ant: Kylie Minogue. She used to be an actress so she was good at all the sketches.

Dec: And she's gorgeous, of course.

Cat: Louise was my favourite. She was like a girly mate.

The Best of SM:TV Live is out tomorrow on Universal Video [£14.99]

HOT!

TV
Video/DVD

SAMURAI JACK Cartoon Network ★★★★★

Although you will recognise this action-packed animation as coming from the creator of The Powerpuff Girls, Samurai Jack stands on its own as one of the best new toons around. Set in the future, Samurai Jack is the sword-wielding hero who must use his ancient warrior ways to defeat the evil shape-shifting wizard, Aku. Despite being short on jokes and dialogue, it has a stylish look, majestic music and movie-like action that packs more punch than Lennox Lewis. Watch it every Friday at 5pm. Chop action!

THE GRINCH [cert PG] ★★★★★

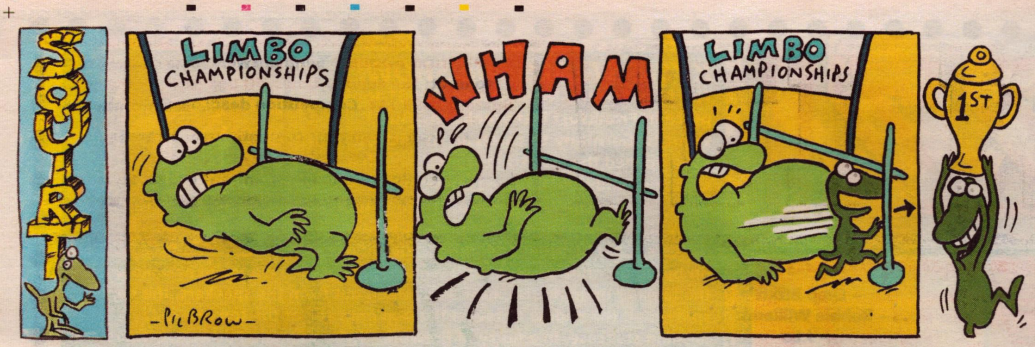
Go "ho, ho, ho" with smash-hit movie The Grinch, out to buy tomorrow. This heart-warming and rib-tickling tale [based on Dr Seuss's How The Grinch Stole Christmas] was the best Christmas movie for an age when it came out at cinemas last year and there's no reason to change that verdict. Madcap Jim Carrey [as the green Grinch] and the fantastic set designs steal the show as the mayhem races along at a breakneck pace. If Harry Potter is the must-see film on the big screen then The Grinch is the one you should be watching at home.

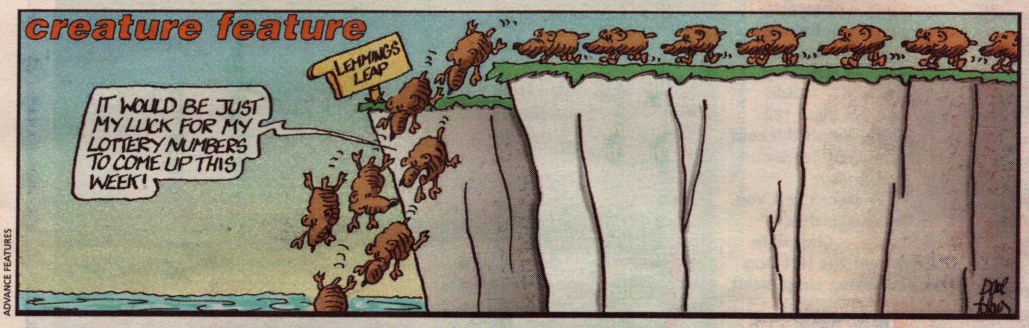
THE LORD OF THE RINGS [cert PG] ★★★☆☆

Obviously hoping to catch the wave of media hype surrounding the new Lord Of The Rings film [out on December 19], this 1978 animated version of the J R R Tolkien tale is far from being a cynical cash-in. This version is surprisingly entertaining and absorbing, with plenty of good versus evil action which makes you forget that its "ground-breaking" animation actually looks a little dated now and that it's probably about 15 minutes too long. A good introduction to Middle Earth before the big event next month.

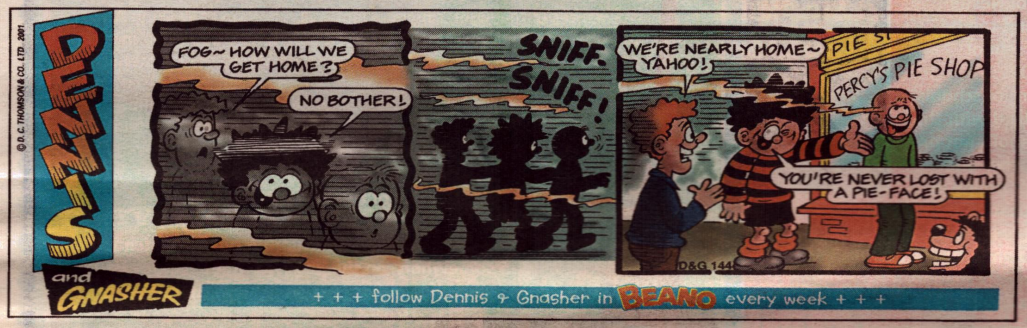
PICTURES: PA/ANTHONY HARVEY/YUI MOK, AP/OLIVER STRATMANN

Buzz! bursts back in Funday next week





ADVANCE FEATURES



NEXT WEEK

PICTURE AP/JOHN STILLWELL

Find out what goes on behind the scenes at London's famous Royal Opera House

The hunt for the golden snitch continues, so keep your eyes peeled and you could win exclusive Harry Potter goodies

Meet Tom DeFalco the man behind some of Spider-Man's classic adventures

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday times@sunday-times.co.uk

SOCCER SISTERS

American stars Mary-Kate and Ashley are two totally different sisters in their latest feature-length video, Switching Goals [£12.99, from Warner Home Video]. They play sisters Sam [a tomboy and star athlete] and Emma [a fashion and dating expert] who switch identities – and it leads to a lot of trouble!

The writer of the star f-mail will receive a Casio TV770 pocket-sized TV, a Score It inflatable goal and ball and a copy of the cool video.

The other f-mailers will receive the Score It inflatable goal and ball and a copy of the video.

Dear f-mail,
Here is my poem called At The Funfair.
I hear the people scream as they go upside down,
I hear the Terminator twisting round and round and round.
I see the big wheel going up and down,
I see the spooky ghost train and the very funny clown.
I smell the salty chips with the nice spicy sauce,
I smell the sweet candy floss and the big smelly horse.
I touch the sweaty money as I have a go on the rides,
I hold on to the mats as I go down the big slides.
I taste the hamburger and the lovely salty chips,
I taste the toffee apples and I spit out the pips!
Sarah Dunn, 13, Fife

What is the favourite food of a man who likes knocking on doors?
Rat-a-tat-ouille!

What do you call a chess partner who smells?
Stalemate!

Charlotte Cork, 13, via e-mail

How does an elephant get down from a tree?
It stands on a leaf and waits for autumn!

Andrew Johnston, Croy

Write on! We want to hear what you've to say!

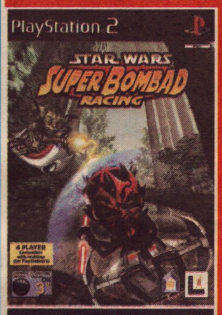
FUNDAY

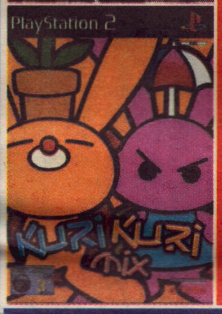
WIN IT!

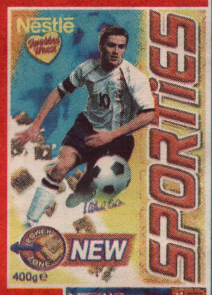
COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. **Competition deadline**: November 28

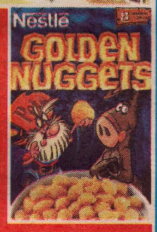
You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

TOKEN EFFORT







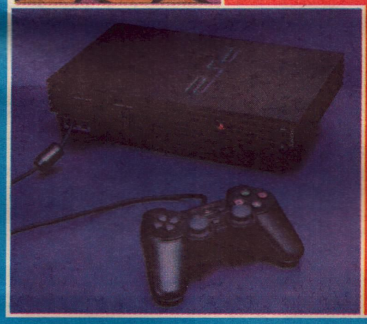


The Nestlé Cereals Box Tops for Education scheme, supported by Robot Wars presenter Philippa Forrester, has been going strong for three years.

By collecting tokens – worth 10p each – you can help your school earn extra cash to buy whatever it wants. The tokens are now available on branded packs of Nestlé breakfast cereals and can be redeemed by your school until March 31, 2002.

More than one third of schools in the UK are involved with the scheme. If your school's not one of them, grab a teacher and get them to register online at www.boxtops4education.co.uk or call the Box Tops for Education helpline on 0700 269 8677.

To celebrate the scheme, Nestlé Box Tops for Education is offering six readers a PlayStation 2, plus £100 in games vouchers.



To enter, tell us what the French word is for "school"

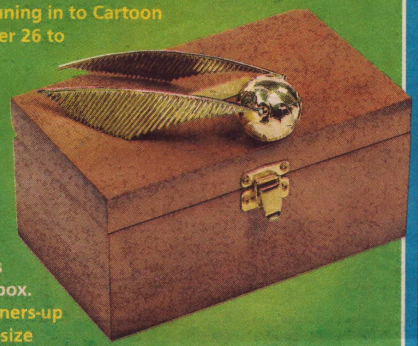
Mark your entry SCHOOL'S COOL and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

Nestlé Cereals BOX TOPS for EDUCATION

QUIDDITCH QUEST

The must-see Harry Potter movie has finally arrived at cinemas and, to celebrate the magic event, a golden snitch has been released and it's up to you to find it!

Cartoon Network has got three limited edition gold snitches – inspired by the film – to be won. The first snitch can be won online now by visiting CartoonNetwork.co.uk, while another gold snitch can be won by tuning in to Cartoon Network from November 26 to December 10.



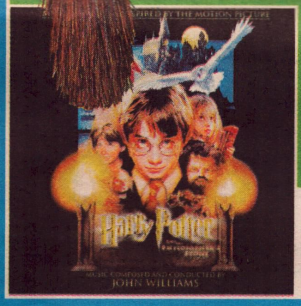
The third of these rare money-can't-buy snitches has been given to Funday to give away!

One lucky reader will receive the gold-plated snitch with sterling silver wings in its presentation box. Plus, three runners-up each get a life-size Nimbus 2000 and a copy of the Harry Potter soundtrack.

So if you're quidditch crazy, pay very close attention to see how to enter this special competition. A golden snitch will be hidden somewhere on the pages of three Funday issues – today, November 25 and December 2. A Harry Potter related question will also appear on December 2.

After that you should have the location of the three snitches and the answer to the question – only then can you send your entry. So save your answers until then!

THE LIMITED EDITION GOLDEN SNITCH AND NIMBUS 2000 ARE INSPIRED BY ACTUAL MEMORABILIA FROM THE MOVIE HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE. THEY ARE NOT TOYS



Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Dear f-mail,
Here is a riddle for Funday readers.
A man came out of a shop. There was a power cut and also his car lights weren't working. He was driving along when a black cat jumped out in front of him but he saw the cat and came to a halt, just in time. How was he able to see the cat if there was a power cut, his lights weren't working and the cat was completely black?
Answer: It was day time so it was bright outside!
Meg Kilfeather, via e-mail

Dear f-mail,
I am writing about bullying. I have never liked bullying and I never will. When I was in years 2 and 3 I was bullied by other kids in my class. I did not enjoy the experience and was hoping it would never happen again. Unfortunately when I started secondary school I was bullied by three boys on the bus. I'm not going to embarrass them by saying their names, even though they deserve it. The boys were mainly picking on me and my friend. After a while my friend told his mum and she sorted it out with the boys' parents. Now everything is okay. I have a few words of advice to people being bullied – stand up to whoever is bothering you because you will find that a bully is often a coward deep down inside, and also tell an adult because it can often put a stop to the bullying.
Jabez Bartlett, Devon

Dear f-mail,
I am writing to tell you how I feel about the programme, Pop Idol. It is a very good idea and it's very popular with viewers but there is one aspect about it which I don't think is right. I think that the judges are being very unfair by saying to contestants that they can't sing or it's the worst performance they've ever heard. I think that they are destroying people's dreams and embarrassing them on national television. I think that they could have just told them they were not through. Please print this letter as I would like to tell Funday readers that no matter what anyone else says about you, to you or behind your back, ignore it because you rule. Don't let anyone but yourself influence your decisions!
Lauren Fisher, via e-mail

Prizes galore and much, much more!

FUNDAY SPORT

KATHERINE GRAINGER

One of Britain's top rowers, Olympic silver medallist Katherine Grainger, will take part in today's national indoor rowing championships at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham. Funday Sport caught up with 26-year-old athlete before her lung-bursting 2,000m race against the clock.

Catherine Bishop and Katherine Grainger at the world championships in June

How important is today's event?

This is the first year that the British selectors have asked us to submit a time for the British team so the top selectors will be looking at us. The professional rowers hate it as it's the most painful experience you can endure. It's six to seven minutes of maximum effort. It doesn't sound very long, but it really gets your lungs burning and legs aching. It's become a sport in itself.

Who are your main rivals?

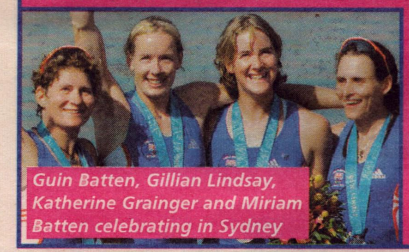
I used to be in a pair with Catherine Bishop and we would lower the British record, competing against each other. She would break the record and then I would go out and beat it – that rivalry really pushes you. She retired in the summer, but this year the New Zealand sisters Georgina and Caroline Evers-Swindell will be the main rivals. They won medals at the world championships in the double and quad boats – they are pretty good.

What are the differences between rowing on a river and on a machine?

On the indoor rower it's more stable and constant, whereas on the boat the river is moving around and you get rain, wind and snow. The computer on the indoor rower makes it mentally tough, though, telling you exactly when you are struggling – which puts you under pressure – while on the boat you just have the rhythm and feel of the boat.

You started rowing at university, was that a late introduction to the sport?

There's a bit of a split between the men and women. Most female rowers start at university, whereas with the men there's a tradition of rowing as a boy's sport at school – that's changing now. Looking at the British Olympic team, most of us started at university and the average age was probably about 30. You don't have to get into the sport early to be successful.



Guin Batten, Gillian Lindsay, Katherine Grainger and Miriam Batten celebrating in Sydney

What has been your biggest achievement?

The silver at the Sydney Olympics [in the women's quadruple sculls]. After years of cold winter training, it was the most amazing feeling when everything came together. It was also the first medal won by the women's rowing team. It is a reminder why you go through all the pain and it's with you the rest of your life. Once you have got that, you either want to do that again or quit as it's the highlight of your career. I definitely want to get the same result or one better!

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action

Thursday Network Q Rally of Great Britain

The climax of the world rallying championship is the closest in years with Colin McRae, Tommi Makinen and Richard Burns [pictured here, winning last year] all within three points of each other going into the final rally of the season. Highlights of the rally are on British Eurosport and BBC2 from Thursday.

Saturday Third Test, Great Britain & Ireland v Australia

The man-of-the-match performance by St Helens star Paul Sculthorpe [below] in the first Ashes Test inspired Great Britain to a rare 20-12 win against the rugby league world champions. The third and final Test takes place at Wigan's JJB Stadium. Watch the crunching action live on Sky Sports 1 from 6.30pm.

Phat fun

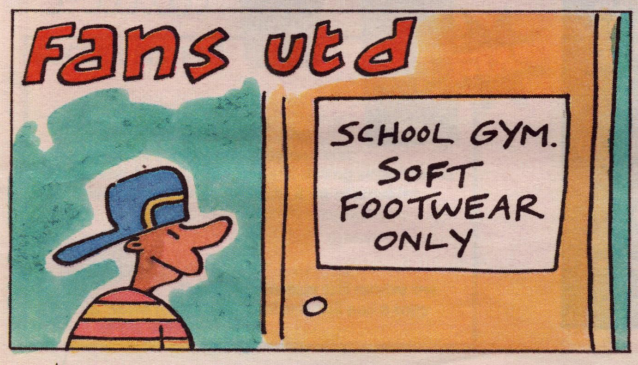
No Rules Get Phat is the latest street game for the Game Boy Advance. Its awesome graphics will challenge gamers looking for a new way to save the world. It's an alien battling, skateboarding, slime-shooting game with punk attitude. Phew!

TDK Mediactive is offering three winners a Gameboy Advance, a copy of the game, a mini-skateboard and a TDK goody bag.

Plus, seven runners-up each get a copy of the game and goody bag.

To enter, tell us who makes the Game Boy Advance.

Mark your entry PHAT and send it, with your name, age, address, shoe-size and choice of colour, to the competition address on page 11.

PICTURES: MICHAEL STEELE/ALLSPORT, REUTERS, PA

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